

# Realm of Fair Women.

FASHIONS, CUSTOMS, THOUGHTS AND MANNERS OF MODERN LADIES.

IT IS easy enough to take time by the forelock and have all the summer sewing done before the warm weather is upon us. All the summer goods for the season are already in the shops, and the New York Tribune thinks, nothing is gained by waiting, while a great deal of nervous hurry is avoided by having the summer sewing all done up and laid in its place a month before it is needed. Work that is done deliberately and quietly is much better done than that which is done amid confusion and bustle. Families who set aside a time each season in which to do up their summer sewing accomplish a great deal more than those who do their work in better-tempered fashion. They have all the goods which are to be made over well cleaned and prepared before this time. The new cloths are well sponged and shrunken and laid aside with linings, trimmings and other needful things. Thus when the work begins, there are no setbacks. The amount of time lost in running for a spool of silk, or a bit of lining, stopping to sponge a piece of cloth, can hardly be estimated by people who do their work continually in such an irregular fashion.

Examine the sewing machine and see that it is in perfect order. It is well known to clean it in all its parts with kerosene oil. This does not oil it thoroughly, but it cleans off the old oil which has become thickened and gummed. After fully cleaning of all parts of the machine with the oil, run it rapidly for a few minutes to make the oil penetrate through the works. Then wipe off all parts of it thoroughly with a soft cloth, removing carefully any bits of dust or fluff of cloth that may be found. When the machine is clean oil it with the very best sperm or machine oil, such as is sold by the machine companies. It is not wise to trust anything else. With the machine in perfect order, the work ready and all the utensils for work at hand in a work-basket, wonders can be accomplished in the way of rapidity, and if one has a hired dressmaker at work by the day, it pays doubly to have everything ready.

## How to Hide a Radiator.

Ingenious woman has met and conquered the problem of what to do with the ungraceful steam heat attachments which so disfigure her pretty rooms. It has been possible in summer to set long boxes of growing vines upon them, letting the long swinging tendrils fall over the pipes as much as they would, but that was only a half-year's arrangement, and the rest of the year they were still very much in evidence. In a pretty apartment the other day was seen a permanent screen to these necessary evils. A frame was made to fit over the pipes, well braced across the bottom, about an inch above the floor, by a stout slat; the uprights of the frame were carried fully eighteen inches above the radiator, and a shelf fitted in which barely cleared it, with another ten inches further up, giving two for use.

The frame was then stained with dark cherry stain, a brass rod was attached just beneath the second shelf and red silk curtains shirred on. These fell to the floor, and the radiator was gone, in its place showing a pretty book shelf. A caution given by the maker is that the parts must not be glued together, but nailed. Then the heat does not affect it, nor does the frame prevent the radiator from giving its full service of warmth to the room. Do not put choice books on the first shelf; in a snugger magazine may be piled neatly on it; in a more pretentious room it is easy to select books or bric-a-brac that will not be affected by heat. For a white or gold room or other delicately decorated apartment the frame may be painted in white enamel, with curtains of pale yellow or cameo pink.

## Don't Take to Postal Cards.

The postoffice department is nothing if not gallant to women. It has been so kind as to get out a cute little postal card three and one-half inches wide and four inches long, especially but not exclusively for feminine use. When they were first put on sale it was thought there would be a great rush for them and indeed there was, but the rush was not so great as was expected, and one-half inches wide by four inches long would crowd the mail sacks. But the women did not rush and the little cards are not in the push. They are attractively printed in blue ink with a picture of General Grant in the corner and a little blue shield at the top near the center. But neither the photograph of Mr. Grant nor the more fanciful decorations of the cards have been successful in creating a yearning in the feminine heart for them. The superintendent of the stamp department in the Kansas City postoffice said to a Star reporter the other day: "They sell very poorly in comparison with the larger sizes. Occasionally a lady asks for a nickel's worth, just to tap them, but there is nothing like a demand for them. Very few ladies use postal cards at all. Those who do are mostly business women, and the business woman wants to be just as big and bold as a man and will have no inelap, effeminate trifling in the way of miniature postal cards. The large size, four by six inches, is the most popular selling card. The small card was intended as a convenience for the ladies, but they don't seem to appreciate it."

## Women Don't Do All the Gossiping.

When a person speaks of a gossiping evening, one immediately thinks it means a woman, yet if the species were averaged up according to sex there would be, like the animals that went into the ark, one male to every female, and for right down professional back-biting, the Philadelphia Times thinks, it takes a man to outdo a woman every time. Perhaps the reason for the simple reason that their knowledge on subjects usually discussed by woman is foreshortened, owing to their sex. A man may not discuss the cut of Mrs. So-and-So's gown, but he can talk glibly about the baggy knees and seedy topcoat of Charlie B., who "poor old chap," is quite on his uppers, lost a lot of money, and they do say that his fiancée has cut him. Isn't that gossip, pure and simple? And who tells his sister that "Dick got in an awful scrape; something positively disreputable—no one knows it, of course; strictly confidential, you know, but his governor cut up very rough and the dear boy will have to leave town for a while until it blows over."

It is a very sweeping assertion, but when secrets are entrusted the question of honor is ten times stronger in a woman

than in a man. "I give you my word as a gentleman" sounds very high flown, but in how many cases does a man remember the promise when he retails escapades that he has induced some young woman to enter into, trusting to his honor to keep it strictly to himself? A group of men can do more harmful gossip in a half an hour than a continued tea drinking from now to the last of January would bring about. To some men nothing is sacred. They discuss everything with a free and easy don't-care-how-hears-they manner, regardless of the truth so long as they make a good story in which they figure as the hero and the heroine is some trusting girl or woman who thinks them perfect.

## Gowns for This Year's Summer Gird.

This summer's girl promises to be the triumph of the century. Those we raved about last year will be largely retired or so fashionably reconstructed as to keep in the swim with the buds of the season. The smartest will wear the Eton Athletic gown, a poem in navy blue serge or other weatherproof cheviot, a plain skirt with leather binding. The coat is lined with gay taffeta silk and opens over a "decadent waistcoat," cut like an evening waistcoat, of blue or white lique or blue wood vesting, powdered with white dots. The very mannish skirt may be of white or colored material, is closed with a single stud, and is, like the linked cuffs, a noble example of the laundress's skill and art. A feature of the gown is a pocket cut in a curve in the skirt on either side, just as near the location of a man's trousers pocket as feminine dress will admit. At the back the skirt and waist are attached according to the most approved hygienic regulations, and the belt may be of leather or of the flexible gold ribbon which is now so deservedly popular as a girlish slender waist. A pretty girl with her hands proudly thrust in the pockets of such a gown is a pleasant, animated dream.

## The Sensation-Creating Woman.

The woman anxious to create a sensation is always with us. Sometimes it is one method, sometimes another which she employs to accomplish this end. Just now the most telling thing seems to be the duchess veil. It is very bridal in its way when made of white and altogether romantic-looking in black. Big pokes and coquettish Gainsboroughs are used to exhibit its charms. This absurdity must be of Chantilly or point de Brussels. Gathered with a drawing-string about the brim of the hat it is allowed to fall quite to the knees of the wearer. Thus enveloped the figure is surrounded by an air of mystery which, to the sentimental young woman, is decidedly fetching.

## Social Providers for Missy's Houts.

When a London hostess wishes to give a ball, she is usually forced to apply to certain well-known "social providers" who, themselves of mature age, are habitually to be found in those haunts of bores, youth, the "bachelors" and "ladies" clubs. Like the pouter, who is desired to send in so many quails and ortolans ready trussed for the supper, the provider will be requested to bring in so many dancing "men," and it must be owned that the faultless array in which they appear does him as much credit as the little birds aforesaid, each one resplendent in its waistcoat of fat white bacon or green vine leaf, reflect credit on the pouter. Each contingent does its duty creditably. The dancing men are active in the ballroom, the quails are supple at supper; and the comparison might be made still more closely as regards the amount of brains which each contingent may be said to possess. But that these dancing marionettes (who are certainly as much hired out by their provider as if they had been sent from the establishment of the caterer) fulfill what is expected of them there is no denying. Whether they like dancing or not, says Lady Colin Campbell in *Truth*, they know quite well that the eye of the "social provider" is upon them, and that if they do not acquit themselves of the task of swirling debutante after debutante round the room their names will be struck off the provider's list and they will sink back into obscurity.

## A Woman's Way of Cleaning a House.

"They say," and it was a man who was talking, "that a man marries a pretty hand, a stray ringlet, a trick of looking down; some little point of expression or figure catches his fancy and obligates all other qualities in the woman he chooses—and this may be so; but what I'm sure is so is that a woman takes a house on the same principle. Five years ago we took a house on a three years' lease simply because it had a swinging hall lamp studded with cat's eyes. The glimmer of these things bewitched my wife's usual good judgment. When, after we moved in, and found the cellar damp and the furnace poor, I rather taxed her with her forethought, she confessed that she had not considered these things as fully as she ought. "I was dreadfully tired the day I saw this house, and the house was attractive with that pretty lamp and the bookcase built in the back parlor." The lamp really got us the house.

## Beautifying the Eyes.

Methods for beautifying the eyes have long been in vogue among women of fashion, and not a few resort to those which ultimately injure the organs and the general health. Atropine is a most common drug for making the eyes look large and lustrous, but the continued use of it so weakens and paralyzes the muscles that weak eyes come on early in life. An eminent oculist claims that the widespread disease of weak eyes among women is largely due to the tampering with these organs for making them more beautiful than nature intended. The extremes to which some will go in the matter is illustrated by an English woman who was arrested in the streets of London for drunkenness. It was found later that she was simply suffering from the toxic effects of atropine, which she had instilled into the eyes to dilate the pupils for a more brilliant appearance. She was determined to be beautiful, and to accomplish the purpose she ran the risk of injuring her eyes for a lifetime. A late fad among women of our cities is to darken the under eyelids with paint to give a more attractive appearance to the eye. This paint is often made up of injurious principles, which in time make the flesh around the eyes old and wrinkled. It becomes cracked, and

then paint becomes essential all of the time. The simplest method, if one will darken the eyes, is to use ordinary lead pencil. The Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette says charcoal crayons are also harmless, but the paint prepared for this work cannot always be trusted.

## Garbs and Gowns.

At last there are signs and tokens that women are really going to dress themselves and not be content with merely wearing clothes, a state of things which promised to become chronic with our sex, says a London correspondent. During the last few days I have seen pretty things, not only in shops and those inner sanctums of artistic dress which are called establishments, but on the persons of their fair patronesses who, with their new and very pretty garments, have regained their old air of style and smartness and walk and look as those who should say, "Behold! we women are ourselves again."

Now, it is apparent to us that those who emerged from dingy habiliments too soon have, like the pushing and enterprising buds that got themselves out weeks ago, to undergo eclipse at the hands of their freshly emancipated neighbors. Women who started new and very remarkable frocks at early weddings are now greeted with inaudible, but plainly indicated, sentiments of "name old gown," by those other women who have but now blossomed out into smart costumes which they are well aware put the owners of those which are already known into "back seats." All those women who started their season toilets too soon suffer from the disadvantage of having only guessed at what would be worn, and have frequently to undergo the mortification of finding their guesses wrong.

## Silk in the Highest Favor.

Clothed, homespun and rough-surfaced materials have had their day, and though they will still be worn, they are not so smart as silk. In the park these evenings, now that the park is a social and a dress occasion and not a mere waste of natural beauty, there are among the smartest women three silken gowns for two wooden ones. Many of the best gowns are black silk, and those striped and broadened. In one or two instances the black was shot and striped with color. Also we observed that dark blue was much admired by the brave. One lady wore dark blue foulard printed with white, the bodice plain dark blue, the sleeves, basque and shoulder frill, as well as the skirt, printed with pines in white.

Stripes, whether in groups or narrow lines, singly in fair breadth, or in bright colors and at intervals, are all much to be worn. Checks and spots are not up to date, the checking stripes suit best the new style of skirts, or more correctly, the skirts of the day, since they are not precisely new. A very good gown is made of dark blue satin. It has broad lines through it of green, yellow and bright red. The skirt is perfectly plain. There is an accordion-plaited skirt of dark blue lisse, which is caught in with a tightly fitting yoke of cream-colored guipure, and beneath the yoke the plaiting falls loose and is caught in under a band of the same material as the skirt, which is fastened at the back with a large gold hook and eye. The sleeves are accordion-plaited over the shoulders and are fitted into deep cuffs of the satin, interlined with red, yellow and green.

The coloring does not sound nice, but it is capital style. The dress worn by a very smart woman will secure admiration enough, for, of course, the success of every gown depends entirely upon its wearer. A slouch or self-consciousness would ruin the finest creation of the cleverest modiste.

## More Carpets Than Rugs.

Some carpet dealers assert they are selling more carpets and fewer rugs this spring than for a number of years, and argue therefrom that the rug fashion may be on the decline. Others on the contrary, report an opposite condition in their business. Rugs are far too satisfactory to the majority of housekeepers to be readily abandoned. Even used under the disadvantages of uneven and gaping floors they are effective, and their wholesomeness over the close-laid and permanent carpets is no longer a debatable question. Accustomed dust is the natural home and breeding place of microbes and germs. A room with bare selvages reduces the opportunities for dust to accumulate.

While one large rug or several smaller rugs of good quality cost more than a carpet to begin with, rugs outwear carpets, and the cost of renovation, imperative twice a year in the case of most carpets, brings the financial balance in favor of the rug. These adjustable floor coverings are now made in every size, so that it is possible to follow any vagaries of shape which an apartment may offer. The narrow hall, for instance, of the average city house, widening between staircase and street door, which used to be considered out of the rug pale, may now be entirely carpeted with these rugs; a square for the front part, a narrow oblong for the passageway, and a short one to reach across the landing of the basement stairs. Most houses being built now, even inexpensive ones, are, if not fitted with hard floors, provided with well-laid floors of narrow, close-fitting boards, which readily take the many excellent finishes and varnishes in the market, to give the requisite border. And, finally, adds the New York Times, there is an air of excellence about a rug-laid room that a carpeted floor of similar grade does not impart.

## Queer Salute to the Shah's Wives.

Dr. Wills, an Englishman who lived many years in Persia, says that until lately it was the rule that no male person over 10 years of age should be found on the road over which a royal wife or daughter was to pass. A violation of the rule was punished with death. Even now, he says, Europeans wisely avoid unpleasantness by turning aside when they hear the shouts which indicate the approach of the "palace ladies." The late American minister, Mr. Benjamin, made a great mistake on one occasion by neglecting this precaution. With true American simplicity he was accustomed to ride through the street with only one servant. Meeting the procession one day he failed to turn out of its path. The result was that his servant was beaten and he himself was hustled into a by-road. The next day he duly lodged a complaint of his treatment, but he had to put up with the apology that, naturally, the royal servants would not recognize a "one-horse minister." An Australian officer of engineers, many years in the service of the shah, was wiser in his generation, says *Pearson's Weekly*. He met the late queen mother and the royal ladies when he was on foot, turned his face to the wall like a native, and as each carriage was deliberately saluted from the back of his head. The ladies screamed with laughter and told the shah, who persuaded him to repeat this not a laughing matter, and then congratulated him on his discretion.

## FEMININE COMMENT.

When Miss Nelson, who carried off the first prize at the interstate oratorical contest at Minneapolis the other day, returned to De Paul college, in which she is a student, she was accorded such a reception as has probably never before been accorded to a woman in an Indiana town. Business houses, public buildings and private residences were decorated, an artillery salute was fired and she was triumphantly borne through the streets in a carriage under the escort of a procession of 1,000 students. —*Minneapolis Wisconsin*.

Appropos of the current discussion of the subject of dress reform for women is the subject of more careful physical training for girls and women. Indeed, it is reasonable to believe that with the latter the former would become a necessity—since obviously proper physical training would compel the discarding of the corset, the narrow-toed and high-heeled shoe and other absurd and unnatural articles of modern feminine equipment. —*Minneapolis Times*.

Woman's influence is and always has been a potent and potent factor in the world, because it, in a great measure, directed and controlled man's influence. In a purely affectional and advisory way. Man cannot and does not desire to escape from it. But there is always women whose ambition is to usurp the functions of the other sex, and in doing so they abrogate their own superiority. —*New York Commercial-Advertiser*.

The mother who raises her daughter ignorant of ordinary housekeeping, under the idea that the daughter need not do the hard work the mother has to do, is making a mistake. No matter if the daughter is never to do such things, she knows how to direct household work when she knows how to do it. It does not hurt any girl to know how to cook, sew, wash dishes and do all other household work. —*St. Joseph Herald*.

Woman is less sensitive to pain than man is, the latest and rather startling conclusion of Professor Lombroso in a recent issue of the *Fortnightly*. The professor has resorted to tests of various kinds and has consulted many surgeons and dentists before coming to this conclusion. He thinks that woman does not feel pain with anything like the acuteness experienced by man. —*Buffalo Commercial*.

Any politician who is so stupid as to suppose that the women do not politically control the votes of this country are not up on the subject. Miss Anthony on the republican ticket would have a walkaway in case the "stuffed" prophet were nominated. She certainly would have no difficulty in carrying her own empire state against D. B. Hill. —*Cleveland World*.

The university girls at Madison who bravely rescued two laborers from a ditch filled with gas while they were returning from church, yesterday, deserve the honor of a formal recognition of their act, and the people of Madison should not fail to award due praise. Milwaukee is proud of her representative in the trio of rescuers. —*Minneapolis Wisconsin*.

A New York woman has invented a cushion headrest for church pews to enable those who bow their heads upon pews backs to do so with comfort. The contrivance can be set at any angle and can be clapped to any pew. The fair inventor of Gotham should now set up a knee-pad for those who choose to kneel at their devotions. —*Minneapolis Wisconsin*.

Don't let your daughter teach in a Chinese society school if you are opposed to having a Chinaman for a son-in-law. We have recently been treated to a number of cases which have led us to the conclusion that the fascinations of the Chinese are such as to make it unwise to see too much of them. John Chinaman is no fool. —*St. Joseph Herald*.

Miss Frances E. Willard's announcement that she contemplates riding a safety bicycle this summer instead of going to a summer resort is one of the most interesting pronouncements of the season. Miss Willard is nearly 50 years old and quite young at that. She ought to be able to learn to ride a bicycle without much difficulty. —*Detroit Tribune*.

It is interesting to learn that the view which relegates woman to an inferior place in intellectual development has recently been stanchly maintained by one of the most distinguished English scientists, Sir James Crichton Browne, who is a specialist in all that relates to cerebral phenomena. —*St. Paul Dispatch*.

Frances Willard denounces the word "female." She says it applies equally to a hen or the mother of Abraham Lincoln, and she regards it as a term of reproach. Apparently Miss Willard, from her illustration, thinks the word reprehensible. —*Brooklyn Eagle*.

In the interstate oratorical contest at Minneapolis the honors were carried off by a woman. This is the second time that this has happened. Even Chaney Depey will soon have to look to his honors. —*Illinois State Journal*.

A Boston philosopher explains that the reason men in that city never give their car seats to ladies is that the ladies are so quiet and diffident that they do not make the men uncomfortable. —*St. Paul Globe*.

Eleven young ladies have sailed to Russia to distribute funds to the famine sufferers; but no notice has been received of any young ladies sailing for Iowa to aid the flood sufferers. —*Grand Rapids Herald*.

Woman has entered politics and wears supporters. —*Birmingham Age-Herald*.

## NOTES ABOUT THE FAIR SEX.

Mrs. Bryan, the wife of the young orator from Nebraska, who made such a sensation by his tariff speech in congress, is a graduate of a law school and has been admitted to practice in the courts of her state. She no longer practices, however, and when asked to what branch of the profession she adheres she invariably replies: "Domestic relations." She says, though, that if her husband should die or become disabled in any way she would always have her profession to fall back upon.

Five \$200 scholarships for women in the state university have recently been endowed by Mrs. Phoebe Hearst, widow of Senator Hearst, of California. The candidates for these scholarships are to be recommended by the county superintendents and no competitive examination will be required.

All of the four universities of Scotland have, within a few years past, adopted a very broad policy in regard to the admission as women as students. In this respect they are in advance of like institutions in any other country of Europe. The munificent gifts of Mrs. Hotchkiss, the widow of the inventor of the machine gun, to Yale college include a building fund of \$100,000 and an endowment of \$500,000 for the establishment of a preparatory school.

A correspondent of the *Critic* reports that Mrs. Ward, author of "Robert Elsmere," is firmly opposed to woman's rights.

A daughter-in-law of the late Brigham Young is working on a Salt Lake paper which is opposed to Mormonism.

An acceptable Jewish preacher, Miss Ray Frank, is to be settled over a congregation at Spokane Falls.

Mrs. Abbott of Cambridge, Mass., aged 94, has kept a daily journal for 50 years.

There is a woman in Oregon who has worked 20 years at stone-cutting.

## THE DANCING GIRL.

She comes, the spirit of the dance!  
And but for those large eloquent eyes,  
Where passion speaks in every glance,  
She'd seem a wanderer from the skies.  
So light that, gazing breathless there,  
Lost the celestial dream should go,  
You'd think the music in the air  
Waved the fair vision to and fro.

Or that the melody's sweet flow  
Within the radiant creature played,  
And those soft wreathing arms of snow,  
And white swift feet the music made.

Now gliding slow with dreamy grace,  
Her feet beneath their lashes lost;  
Now mo' n'less with lifted face,  
And small hands on her bosom crossed.

And now with flashing eyes she springs,  
Her whole bright figure raised in air,  
As if her soul had sprang to find  
And poised her own wild instinct there.

She spoke not, but so richly fraught  
Her language were her glance and smile  
That when the curtain fell I thought  
She had been talking all the while.

—*Boston Record*.

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